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SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND: COUNTRY REPORTS ON TERRORISM

REF: STATE 193439

11. The following is Embassy Wellington's submission for the 2005 Country Terrorism Report on New Zealand:

New Zealand

New Zealand has a strong capacity to develop and implement counter-terrorism policies, and further strengthened its role in the global war on terror in 2005 through domestic legislation. New Zealand has ratified twelve of the thirteen United Nations anti-terrorism conventions, and signed the new International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism in September 2005.

Domestic Counter-terrorism Legislation

In December 2004, the Government introduced a bill into Parliament to extend until 2007 New Zealand's UN Security Council-related designations of terrorist organizations. In June 2005, New Zealand's Parliament passed the Terrorism Suppression Amendment Act 2005, which expanded the scope of the criminalization of the financing of terrorism to include the intentional financing of non-designated organizations that engage in terrorism. The Amendment also extends until 2007 New Zealand's UN Security Council-related designations of terrorist organizations. Passage of the amendment brought New Zealand into full compliance with FATF Special Recommendation II (Terrorist Financing). As of the end of 2005, New Zealand had designated 420 terrorist organizations and was considering adding more to the list. To date, no funds belonging to these designated organizations have been found in New Zealand. In April 2005, Parliament passed the Charities Act, which established a Charities Commission to regulate and monitor charitable entities. Charities will be obliged to register with the Commission in order to gain tax exempt status. A charity will not be able to register if it is a designated terrorist entity or convicted of any offense under the Terrorism Suppression Act.

New Zealand Police continue to strengthen their domestic counter-terrorism capacity. Building on increased capacity in intelligence gathering, both domestically and internationally, and enhanced tactical responses, in 2005 the Police established regional teams to improve police investigation of national security-related matters.

Since the events of September 11, 2001, New Zealand has also worked to strengthen its border controls and intelligence capabilities to prevent terrorists and terrorist groups from using New Zealand territory or facilities. No terrorists or terrorist organizations are known to be in New Zealand.

The country also takes seriously the need to prevent the

spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction. New Zealand has participated in Proliferation Security Initiative exercises, supported the inclusion of export security issues in APEC, and, as part of its Supply Chain Security Strategy, works with US Customs officials to identify and intercept high risk shipping containers.

International cooperation

New Zealand also has continued cooperative efforts to enhance counter-terrorism capacity in the Pacific and internationally. New Zealand played a leading role organizing and funding (through the Pacific Security Fund) the first Pacific Islands Forum-wide counter-terrorism contingency planning exercise, Exercise READY PASIFIKA, which took place in Suva, Fiji in November 2005. The exercise brought together senior counter-terrorism officials from all Pacific Islands Forum countries to assess their capacity to plan for, and respond to, a developing terrorist incident. Exercise READY PASIFIKA focused on four specific themes: internal cooperation and coordination; legal frameworks (with a particular focus on terrorist financing measures); border security (especially port and immigration security) and regional co-operation. The exercise was widely welcomed as a success and New Zealand will host a third "follow-up and next steps" phase in April 2006.

In June 2005, New Zealand hosted the inaugural Pacific Working Group on Counter-Terrorism (WGCT) in Auckland. The WGCT brought together counter-terrorism officials from Pacific Islands Forum member countries, Forum observer countries, and relevant regional organizations to discuss the region's priorities, challenges and progress in implementing the international counter-terrorism agenda. The Forum

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Regional Security Committee (FRSC) endorsed the WGCT report and agreed the Working Group should reconvene in 2006. New Zealand has actively encouraged the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Chair to attend the 2006 WGCT and she has agreed to do so subject to timing.

New Zealand has also offered assistance to Pacific Islands Forum member countries to help them submit required reporting under UN Security Council Resolutions 1267, 1373 (counter-terrorism) and 1540 (Weapons of Mass Destruction). So far seven Pacific Island countries have responded positively to this offer and assistance is now being provided to them.

In June 2005, New Zealand concluded a bilateral MOU on Enhanced Counter-Terrorism Cooperation with Fiji. New Zealand signed a Joint Declaration to Combat International Terrorism with ASEAN in July 2005.

New Zealand Police continued its relationship with Indonesian National Police under its bilateral MOU on co-operation in countering terrorism. The NZ Police provided practical assistance to Indonesia following the second series of attacks in Bali in October 2005.

Other initiatives

NZ has been a strong supporter of the Australia and Indonesia Interfaith Dialogue Initiative (IFD). New Zealand sent a strong delegation to the inaugural meeting of this process in Yogyakarta Indonesia in December 2004. The meeting included representatives of the region's faith communities from the ASEAN countries, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste. New Zealand, along with Australia, Indonesia, and the Philippines, is a member of an officials' steering committee overseeing the organization of a second IFD meeting, to be held in the Philippines in March 2006.

McCormick